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COMBINATION BEVERAGE AND MEAT CASE

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This invention relates to a refrigerated display case, and more particularly to a case for holding beverages to be cooled and fresh meats therein.

The object of the invention is to provide a refrigerated case which includes a lower compartment for holding beverages to be cooled and an upper compartment for holding fresh meats. The upper compartment is constructed whereby prospective purchasers can readily observe the meats through a transparent door or window, thereby giving access to each of these compartments. Another object of the invention is to provide a refrigerated case that is especially suitable for small retail stores, since the same case can be used for simultaneously holding fresh meats and beverages, the meats being sanitarily stored in a separate compartment from the beverages.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combined case for beverages and meats which is extremely simple and inexpensive to manufacture. Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are used to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the refrigerated case constructed according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the case with parts broken away and in section;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of the upper body member for holding the meats, and with parts thereof broken away and in section.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates a hollow housing which may be fabricated of any suitable material. The housing 10 includes a horizontally disposed bottom wall 11 and a vertically disposed back wall 12. Arranged in spaced parallel relation with respect to the back wall 12 and projecting upwardly from the bottom wall 11 is a vertically disposed front wall 13 which is of greater height than the back wall 12. Extending between the front and back walls and secured thereto is a pair of vertically disposed spaced parallel side walls 14 and 15. Each of these wall sections is provided with the usual insulation 16 therein which serves to facilitate the job of keeping the refrigerator case cold.

The side walls, front and back walls and bottom wall of the housing 10 have a lining 18 arranged contiguous to the inner surfaces thereof, the lining 18 being fabricated of any suitable material and serving to maintain the insulation 16 in its proper position. The bottom of the lining 18 is tapered, as best seen in Figure 3, and a drainage opening 19 is provided in the tapered bottom of the lining 18 for the egress therethrough of waste water. The walls of the housing 10 extend to define a lower compartment 20 which has partitioned therein a plurality of partitions 21 for holding therebetween bottles of soft drinks, beer or other beverages. Suitably cooling coils 22 are arranged contiguous to back wall 12 so as to insures that bottles of beverages in the compartment 20 will be cooled to the proper temperature.

For gaining access to the bottles of beverages in the compartment 20, a plurality of sliding doors 25, 26 and 27 are provided. These sliding doors are each provided with recesses 28 which are adapted to be gripped or engaged by the hand or fingers of the clerk or store owner, whereby the doors can be moved to their open position when the bottles of beverages are to be sold. Normally, the doors 25, 26 and 27 are in the position shown in Figure 1, and when the doors are in this position they are serving to close an elongated opening 24 that is arranged in an inclined frame 23. The frame 23 serves to slidably support the doors 25, 26 and 27. The lower end of the frame 23 is secured to the upper end of the back wall 12 in any suitable manner, while the upper end of the frame 23 is spaced from the front wall 13 for a purpose to be later described.

The case of the present invention further includes a body member 28 that includes a compartment 30 for holding fresh meats and the like therein. Also, the body member 28 includes a hollow casing 31 provided with an inclined or tapered bottom wall 32. A drainage opening 33 is provided in the bottom wall 32 through which water of condensation and the like will drain and eventually pass out through the opening 19. The casing 31 projects through the space defined between the upper end of the frame 23 and the front wall 13, and the casing 31 projects down into the upper end of the housing 10. Thus, the body member 28 is securely anchored in place on top of the housing 10. Suitable cooling coils 34 are arranged in the housing 10 contiguous to the bottom of the casing 31 so as to insures that the meats in the compartment 30 are maintained.
at their proper temperature. The body member 29 further includes a vertically disposed back support or member 35 which is provided with elongated openings 38. For notching closing the partitions 24 which are arranged in the compartment 28 in the housing 10, and these bottles of beverages will be cooled by the coils 22. When the clerk or store owner desires to remove any of these bottles from the case, the doors 36 can be slid open or the doors 25 to 27 can be moved, without the desired number of bottles of beverages can be removed and sold to the purchaser. Also, the case of the present invention is the compartment 28 that serves to provide a storage compartment for fresh meats and the like. The transparent member 35 enables the prospective purchasers to view the meats and decide which cuts they desire, and then the clerk or other person can readily gain access to the meats in the compartment 28 by moving the proper doors 36.

If desired, the body member can be attached to the top of a beverage container that is being used in a small retail store, since the parts thereof are constructed with such a modification in mind. The case of the present invention is constructed so that "the customers' side thereof includes a glass window 29 which permits the customer to view the meat before the purchase thereof. The case is especially suitable for a small store owner who might not be able to afford to buy a separate case for displaying meats as well as beverages. Also, by having the meats and beverages in separate compartments, there will be no conflict with any State regulations or laws which require that such items be maintained in separate compartments.

I claim:
1. In a refrigerating case, a hollow housing including a horizontally disposed bottom wall, a vertically disposed back wall, a vertically disposed front wall of greater height than said back wall, a pair of spaced parallel vertically disposed side walls coating with said front, back and bottom walls to define a bottle holding compartment, there being a drainage opening in said bottom wall, cooling coils arranged in said back wall, an inclined frame projecting from the upper end of said back wall and having its upper end spaced from said front wall, a plurality of sliding doors carried by said frame thus permitting access to said beverage holding compartment, a body member including a hollow casing projecting through the space between said frame and front wall and extending into said housing, said casing including a sloping bottom wall provided with a drainage opening, cooling coils arranged in said housing contiguous to said casing, a plurality of horizontally disposed rack bars arranged in said body member for supporting meat thereon, a vertically disposed back member supported on said casing, sliding doors carried by said back member, and an inclined window extending across the front of said body member.

2. In a refrigerating case, a hollow housing including a bottom wall, a back wall, a front wall of greater height than said back wall, a pair of vertically disposed side walls coating with said front, back and bottom walls to define a bottle holding compartment, there being a drainage opening in the bottom wall, cooling coils arranged in said back wall, an inclined frame projecting from the upper end of said back wall and having its upper end spaced from said front wall, a plurality of sliding doors carried by said frame and permitting access to said beverage holding compartment, a body member including a hollow casing projecting through the space between said frame and front wall and extending into said housing, said casing including a sloping bottom wall provided with a drainage opening, a plurality of horizontally disposed rack bars arranged in said body member for supporting meat thereon, a back member supported on said casing, sliding doors carried by said back member, and an inclined window extending across the front of said body member.

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